

REMARKS

The Official action mailed 15 April 2008, has been received and its contents carefully noted. The pending claims, claims 1-11, were rejected. By this amendment, claims 2-11 have been amended and claim 1 was canceled and claim 12 is added. Support may be found in the specification and the claims as originally filed. No statutory new matter has been added. Therefore, reconsideration and entry of the claims as amended are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1-2 and 5-11 because (1) the claims should be written in present tense, (2) the claims do not clearly convey what is claimed, and (3) Mv should likely be changed to Mw.

In view of the amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully assert that the claim objections should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are clear and definite. Specifically, claim 1 has been canceled; claim 2 is amended to remove the parentheses and make clear the floc is allowed to settle at least 30 minutes; claim 3 is amended to clarify that the electrolyte solution comprises an electrolyte and an acid; and claims 9-11 are amended to clarify that the molecular weight ranges are those that are obtained from the given electrolyte solution.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, should properly be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claim 1 as being anticipated by Yaku (US 4,970,150). Specifically, the Examiner deemed that Yaku discloses chitosan oligosaccharides which oligomers should have the same structural features as claimed.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 has been canceled and that the remaining claims 2-11 are method claims. Yaku discloses obtaining chitosan oligosaccharides according to an enzyme (cellulose) method. The present invention, however, is directed to a method of obtaining chitosan oligosaccharides by subjecting chitosan to microwave radiation. Yaku does not teach or suggest irradiating chitosan with microwaves. Thus, Yaku does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of the claimed method.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims, as amended, are novel and that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) should properly be withdrawn.

Request for Interview

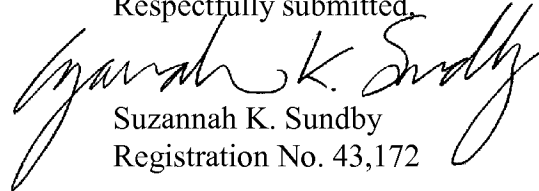
Either a telephonic or an in-person interview is respectfully requested should there be any remaining issues.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Official action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to **Deposit Account No. 02-4300**, Attorney Docket No. **034176.004**.

Respectfully submitted,



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